

Patent Application Number: 09/921,456

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5, 6, and 8-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 4, 7, and 23-42 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein. The Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed to the subject of the cancelled claims 4, 7, and 23-42.

As respectfully submitted above, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of originally allowable dependent claim 4.

Moreover, as respectfully submitted above, claim 17 has been amended into independent claim form to include the subject matter of original independent claim 1. Also, as respectfully submitted above, claim 18 has been amended into independent claim form to include the subject matter of original independent claim 1.

Lastly, as respectfully submitted above, original independent claim 21 has been amended to be dependent upon allowable independent claim 1.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the amendments and reasons set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all the present rejections. Also, an early indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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